92 एम एम एस सी एम डी के आवटन के अतिरिक्त गैस अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड के पास लगभग 240 एम एम एस सी एम डी गैस की बांध पंजीकृत है।

(ख) वर्तमान नीति के अनुसार बिना इस पर ध्यान दिए कि वह स्थान ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में या शहरी क्षेत्र में 20,000 और उससे अधिक जनसंख्या वाले स्थानों में एल पी जी की नई एजेंसियां उत्पाद की उपलब्धता और आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता के आधार पर चरणों में स्थापित की जा रही है।

(ग) से (ङ) सभी पहाड़ी बाजारों में एल पी जी के डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों को और शहरी क्षेत्रों में प्रचालन कर रहे उन डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरों को 15 कि०मी० की परिधि के भीतर कनेक्शन देने की अनुमति दी जाती है। जो दो वर्षों की अवधि को पूरा करने के बाद भी प्रचालन के लिए आर्थिक दृष्टि से व्यवहार्य स्तर तक नहीं पहुंच पाये हैं।

मध्य प्रदेश में रसोई गैस की कमी

288. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के इन्दौर, उज्जैन, भोपाल और ग्वालियर नगरों में रसोई गैस की भारी कमी है,

(ख) क्या भरे हुए सिलेण्डर प्राप्त करने के लिए उपभोक्ताओं को लम्बे समय तक प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है, और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) से (ग) सामान्यतः मध्यप्रदेश में एल० पी० जी० रिफिलों की आपूर्ति में कोई कमी नहीं है। तथापि, कमी के नजर में आने पर तत्काल यथोचित कारवाई की जाती है।

Promotions in B. P. C. Limited

289. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons promoted above the rank 'D' of Middle Management Group since 1983 in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited ;

(b) the number of promotions the promotee have received since 1983 till date ;

(c) on what basis they were promoted ; and

(d) what are the criteria in the comparative merit policy for promotion ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The information in regard to promotion from rank 'E' and above is as follows :—

No. of Officers	No. of promotions received during the period
138	1
60	2
26	3

(c) On the basis of merit-cum-seniority.

(d) Promotions in Job Group above 'D' are effected on the basis of merit-cum-seniority. This also takes into account qualifications, relevant experience, potentiality and suitability etc.

Merit Policy

290. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the comparative merit policy followed by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation for promotion ;

(b) the criteria enumerated in the comparative merit policy of promotion ; and

(c) the number of persons from the Middle Management Group 'D' have been denied promotion under the comparative merit policy ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Promotions in Job Group 'D' to 'E' are effected on the basis of merit-cum-seniority. This also takes into account qualifications, relevant experience, potential suitability, etc.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Development of Oil and Gas Fields

291. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question 3158 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th March, 1992 and state:

(a) when was the decision in principle taken to allow development of small-sized oil gas fields in joint venture with private parties;

(b) by when Government propose to take the final decision in this regard;

(c) whether the FIPB has asked the Petroleum Ministry's opinion or views regarding seven large fields to invite foreign companies to explore;

(d) if so, on what date the FIPB asked the Ministry and on what date the Ministry conveyed its final opinion or views;

(e) whether some foreign petroleum companies have indicated their interest in the above, if so, their names and the current status of Government's response; and

(f) on what dates such proposals or intent of interest were indicated by each of the above companies ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) A decision in principle was taken in November, 1991. Detailed modalities for making the offer are being worked out.

(c) to (f) While some foreign companies have made presentations to the FIPB about their interest in participating in the development of preven oilfields and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was also involved in this process, no final decision in this regard has been taken.

Letters of Intent for Petrol Pumps

292. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3650 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is fact that all the nine cases where Letters of Intent were issued were stayed for a review by the new Government in June/July 1991;

(b) the number of those which have been cleared after the review;

(c) the criteria adopted for the review; and

(d) by when the remaining cases are likely to be cleared after the review ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2.

(c) Regular review and clearances are being carried out so that all genuine cases are expeditiously disposed off.

(d) No date can be indicated.

Economising ONGC Style

293. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) wheher Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express of 30th March, 1992 under the caption "Economising ONGC Style";

(b) whether it is a fact that ONGC has ignored the advice of Government on